Amendments to the Claims

Please cancel claims 4, 23 and 27 without prejudice.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the above-identified application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended): A composition, ~~in particular a pulverulent masterbatch,~~ comprising ~~at least one nanoclay composed of a swellable inorganic layered material which~~ an organically intercalated phyllosilicate, wherein the organically intercalated phyllosilicate has been modified by treatment with at least one siloxane component and ~~by~~ at least one non-anionic ~~organic component~~fatty acid derivative which has at least one aliphatic or cyclic radical having from 6 to 32 carbons.

2. (Currently amended): The composition as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the average particle size of the organically intercalated phyllosilicate ~~nanoclay present~~ is from 0.1 to 1000 µm~~, preferably from 0.1 to 100 µm, particularly preferably from 1 to 15 µm, and very particularly preferably from 2 to 10 µm~~.

3. (Currently amended): The composition as claimed in claim 1 ~~or 2~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the organically intercalated phyllosilicate ~~nanoclay present encompasses~~ comprises a ground organically intercalated phyllosilicate~~nanoclay~~.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Withdrawn-Currently amended): The composition as claimed in ~~any of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the non-anionic ~~organic component encompasses at least one non-anionic~~ fatty acid derivative~~, in particular fatty acid derivative~~ is selected from the group

consisting of the derivatives of saturated or unsaturated fatty acids, ~~and of the~~ polymer fatty acids, and mixtures thereof, ~~particularly preferably from the group of the fatty alcohols, fatty amines, triglyceride esters, alkyl esters of fatty acids, and waxes~~.

6. (Withdrawn-Currently amended): The composition as claimed in ~~any of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the non-anionic ~~organic component~~ fatty acid derivative has at least one aliphatic or cyclic radical having from 8 to 22 carbon atoms~~, in particular from 10 to 18 carbon atoms~~.

7. (Withdrawn-Currently amended): The composition as claimed in ~~any of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the fatty acid derivative derives from fatty acids having form 10 to 30 carbon atoms.

8. (Withdrawn-Currently amended): The composition as claimed in ~~any of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the fatty acid derivative ~~has been~~is selected from the group consisting of hydrogenated derivatives, alcohol derivatives, amine derivatives, ~~or~~ and their mixtures.

9. (Withdrawn-Currently amended): The composition as claimed in ~~any of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the fatty acid derivatives derive from the group consisting of ~~the~~ polymeric fatty acids, ~~of the~~ keto fatty acids, ~~of the~~ fatty acid alkyloxazolines and fatty acid alkylbisoxazolines, or and their mixtures.

10. (Withdrawn-Currently amended): The composition as claimed in ~~any of the preceding claims characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the siloxane component ~~has been selected~~ is selected from the group of ~~the~~ oligomeric or ~~the~~ polymeric siloxanes, ~~and, respectively,~~ siloxane derivatives~~, in particular composed of~~including oligoalkylsiloxanes, ~~of~~ polydialky-siloxanes, ~~of~~ polyalkylarylsioxanes, ~~of~~ polydiarylsiloxanes, ~~or~~ and their mixtures.

11. (Withdrawn-Currently amended): The composition as claimed in ~~any of the preceding claims characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the siloxane component ~~has been selected from~~ comprises siloxane derivatives functionalized by at least one reactive group.

12. (Withdrawn-Currently amended): The composition as claimed in ~~any of the preceding claims characterized in that the additive or the additive mixture also comprises at least one other component, in particular for improvement of flowability during processing in a polymer, preferably~~ claim 1, further comprising a component selected from the group consisting of ~~the~~ ethylene-propylene copolymers (EPM), ~~the~~ ethylene-propylene terpolymers (EPDM), ~~the~~ thermoplastic elastomers, ~~the~~ coupling agents, ~~the~~ crosslinking agents, ~~or~~ and mixtures of these.

13. (Withdrawn-Currently amended): The composition as claimed in claim 12, ~~characterized by~~ wherein an average molecular weight of the EPM and/~~or~~ EPDM of less than 20,000.

14. (Withdrawn - Currently amended): The composition as claimed in claim 12 ~~or 13~~, ~~characterized by~~ wherein an ethylene: propylene ratio of the EPM and EPDM ranges from 40:60 to 60:40 ~~in EPM and/or EPDM~~.

15. (Withdrawn-Currently amended): ~~The composition in the form of a substantially~~ A substantially homogenous mixture of the ~~pre-exfoliated nanoclay~~ composition as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 14~~ claim 1 with a polymer powder.

16. (Withdrawn-Currently amended): A polymer-containing composition~~, in particular a polymer masterbatch,~~ which has been obtained via compounding of the composition as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 15~~ claim 1 with a ~~predetermined~~ carrier polymer.

17. (Withdrawn-Currently amended): The polymer-containing composition as claimed in claim 16, ~~characterized in that the predetermined~~ wherein the carrier polymer ~~has been selected~~ is selected from the group consisting of polyethylene-ethylene-vinyl acetate copolymer (EVA), ethylene-ethyl acrylate copolymer (EEA), ethylene-methyl acrylate copolymer (EMA), ethylene-

butyl acrylate copolymer (EBA), their maleic-anhydride-(MAH)-modified derivatives, ionomers, styrene-elastomer systems, ether-ester block copolymers, polyether-polyamide block copolymers (PEBA), mixtures of thermoplastic polymers, thermoplastic polyurethane elastomers, thermoplastic silicone rubber, ~~or from~~ and their mixtures.

18. (Withdrawn-Currently amended): The polymer-containing composition as claimed in claim 16 ~~or 17, characterized by a proportion of~~ wherein the carrier polymer ~~of~~ comprises from 10 to 90%~~, preferably from 40 to 70%~~.

19. (Withdrawn-Currently amended): The polymer-containing composition as claimed in ~~any of claims 16 to 18~~ claim 16 in pellet or granular form.

20. (Withdrawn-Currently amended): ~~The use of the composition as claimed in any of claims 1 to 15 or of the polymer-containing composition as claimed in any of claims 16 to 19 as filler~~ A filler in polymers or polymer compositions comprising the polymer-containing composition as claimed in claim 16.

21. (Withdrawn-Currently amended): ~~The use of the composition as claimed in any of claims 1 to 15 or of the polymer-containing composition as claimed in any of claims 16 to 19 in filler systems~~ A filler system for polymers or polymer compositions comprising the polymer-containing composition as claimed in claim 16.

22. (Withdrawn-Currently amended): ~~The use as claimed in claim 21~~ A material comprising the filler system of claim 21 in combination with a flame-retardant halogen-containing or halogen-free filler.

23. (Canceled)

24. (Withdrawn-Currently amended): The ~~use~~ material as claimed in claim ~~23, characterized in that~~ 22, wherein the halogen-free flame-retardant filler ~~has been~~ is selected from aluminum

hydroxide, aluminum oxide hydrate (boehmite), magnesium hydroxide, magnesium oxide, brucite, magnesium carbonate, hydromagnesite, huntite, bauxite, calcium carbonate, talc, glass powder, melamine isocyanurates, their derivatives and preparations, borates, stannates, and hydroxystannates, phosphates, ~~or~~ and their mixtures.

25. (Withdrawn-Currently amended): ~~The use as claimed in claim 20 as filler in polyolefins and their mixtures, in engineering~~ Engineering plastics and their mixtures, and ~~also~~ alloys containing the filler of claim 20.

26. (Withdrawn-Currently amended): ~~The use as claimed in claim 20 or 21 for elastomers~~ Elastomers and thermosets containing the filler of claim 20.

27. (Canceled)

28. (New): The composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the non-anionic fatty acid derivative is selected from the group consisting of fatty alcohols, fatty amines, triglyceride esters, alkyl esters of fatty acids, and waxes and mixtures thereof.

29. (New): The composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the non-anionic fatty acid derivative has at least one aliphatic or cyclic radical having 10 to 18 carbon atoms.

30. (New): A process for the preparation of the composition as claimed in claim 1 comprising the steps of:

a) providing a pulverulent organically intercalated phyllosilicate, and
b) coating the organically intercalated phyllosilicate with at least one siloxane component and at least one non-anionic fatty acid derivative which has at least one aliphatic cyclic radical having from 6 to 32 carbon atoms.